



*"Representing the Agricultural Producers of Montgomery County"*

Sydney Katz

President Montgomery County Council

May 29, 2020

I know the council will review, discuss, and vote on the County Executive's first stage of opening our county up for business. I know we all want to be careful and make sure we do this in the right way the first time so we can avoid a return to this crisis during the next few months.

With that said we would like some clarification about On Farm Alcohol Producers including Wineries, Breweries and Cidery's. These businesses are mostly in and around the AG Reserve on farms and can handle patrons outside at their locations. They, like other food and beverage retailers, would like to open to the public again. Since the County Executive believes that restaurants can open safely for food and drink service on sidewalks in urban areas, we believe that Farm Alcohol Producers could do the same in and around the AG Reserve. Again, this would be outside in open air spaces practicing social distancing until we move onto the next stage.

It seems that Farm Alcohol Producers would be covered under the opening of restaurants for outside service, but we wanted to be sure that our understanding is correct. We hope that you and your fellow council members support this interpretation and confirm it with us during your discussions today. Currently our Vineyards, Breweries and Cidery's are planning to open Monday based on this new order.

Your guidance would be most appreciated.

Sincerely

Bob Cissel

Montgomery Agricultural Producers

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